

MAR 28 2007

REMARKSI. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated December 28, 2006, ~~claims~~ Please cancel claims 2, 18, and 34 have been cancelled, and claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 17, 19, 20, 22, 33, 35, 36, and 38 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-17, 19-33, and 35-48 remain in the application. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

II. Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action indicates that the PTO-1449 referred to in the cover letter of the 1/5/2004 submission was missing. The Patent Office requested a copy of the PTO-1449 with any response to the pending action.

Applicants note that the auto-reply facsimile transmission (copy enclosed) received from the Patent Office indicates that 6 pages were received including the PTO-1449. Per the request of the Examiner, an additional copy of the PTO-1449 is attached hereto. Since the PTO-1449 was previously submitted and received by the Patent Office, no fees are due at this time. Applicants respectfully request consideration of the references cited in the PTO-1449.

III. Prior Art Rejections

In paragraphs (2)-(3) of the Office Action, claims 1-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wallace, U.S. Patent No. 5,861,889 (Wallace) in view of Gardner et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,959,424 (Gardner) and Chekerylla et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,084,598 (Chekerylla).

A. Independent Claims 1, 17, and 33

Specifically, the independent claims were rejected as follows:

Regarding independent claim 1 Wallace teaches A method for temporarily (i.e. col. 14 lines 2-3 of Wallace : "Also, a highlighted temporary knob handle 212 is generated as described below") displaying information relating (i.e. col. 2 lines 53-55 of Wallace : "The frame handles facilitate, among other things, movement of the sphere relative to the displayed object") to a manipulator (i.e. col. 2 lines 61-63 of Wallace : "when the mouse is manipulated, the pointer changes from its pointer nominal representation"). Wallace does not teach that the manipulator is for an object or that the graphic object is in a computer graphics program.

Gardner teaches displaying information (i.e. col. 3 lines 58-60 of Gardner : "The additional visually perceivable information remains perceivable to the person as long as the cursor remains on the selected sub-area") relating (i.e. col. 7 lines 29-31 of Gardner : "If the user is interested in learning

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more about an image 120 displayed on the web page, the user can interact with the mouse to move the cursor 110 to the image 120") to an object (i.e. col. 3 lines 4-7 of Gardner : "The phrase "to click on" means to select an object displayed on the video display terminal by moving the mouse pointer to the position of the object and clicking a mouse button") manipulator (i.e. col. 2 lines 60-66 of Gardner : "To select items or to choose commands displayed on a video display terminal traditionally requires that the user manipulate the mouse or other device to place the pointer or the cursor proximate to the desired target, and press one or more mouse buttons or other actuators to produce a "click" to indicate some action") on the graphic object (i.e. col. 3 lines 4-7 of Gardner : "The phrase "to click on" means to select an object displayed on the video display terminal by moving the mouse pointer to the position of the object and clicking a mouse button") receiving cursor input wherein a cursor is placed over the object manipulator (i.e. col. 2 lines 60-66 of Gardner : "To select items or to choose commands displayed on a video display terminal traditionally requires that the user manipulate the mouse or other device to place the pointer or the cursor proximate to the desired target, and press one or more mouse buttons or other actuators to produce a "click" to indicate some action") and temporarily displaying information relating to the object manipulator (i.e. col. 3 lines 58-60 of Gardner : "The additional visually perceivable information remains perceivable to the person as long as the cursor remains on the selected sub-area"). It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to combine the object manipulator of Gardner with the temporary information display of Wallace to allow "the additional visually perceivable information" to be "provided without requiring other action by the person" (col. 3 lines 50-52 of Gardner). Gardner does not teach displaying a graphic object in a computer graphics program.

Chekerylla teaches displaying a graphic object in a computer graphics program (i.e. col. 1 of Chekerylla : "Computer graphics programs that allow a user to modify digital images are well known in the art"). It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to combine the computer graphics program of Chekerylla with the object manipulator of Gardner and the temporary information display of Wallace "for modifying stored and displayed images" (col. 1 lines 11-12 of Chekerylla).

Claim 17 is similar in scope to claim 1, differing primarily in that claim 17 is directed towards an apparatus and claim 1 is directed toward a method, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 33 is similar in scope to claim 1, differing primarily in that claim 33 is directed towards an article of manufacture and claim 1 is directed toward a method, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Applicant traverses the above rejections.

The independent claims are directed to temporarily displaying information relating to an object manipulator. The claims provide for displaying a graphic object and an object manipulator on the object. A cursor is placed over the object manipulator and information is temporarily displayed in response. As amended, the claims provide that the information is displayed without activating the object manipulator at all.

Building upon the independent claims, the dependent claims provide for displaying certain types of information - all without activating the object manipulator.

Applicants note that the concept of placing an object manipulator on a graphic object and providing information object the manipulator itself without activating the manipulator is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art. More specifically, the invention provides the ability to receive

feedback regarding the object manipulator without having to actually activate the manipulator and test the various scenarios or uses of the manipulator. In addition, as addressed below, the dependent claims provide various specific implementations that are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.

B. Dependent Claims 3, 19, and 35

Dependent claims 3, 19, and 35 provide that the information is a change of color of the object manipulator. As amended, claims 3, 19, and 35 provide that there are multiple object manipulators that are displayed in close proximity on the graphic object. In this regard, the claims explicitly provide that it is difficult to distinguish which object manipulator will be activated as a result of pointing device activation. Further, the display of the changed color distinguishes one object manipulator from another object manipulator displayed in close proximity.

In rejecting these dependent claims, the Office action relied on col. 8, lines 52-55 of Wallace which provides that the interior of a selected frame orientation knob handle 222 changes color and a mouse pointer C changes to have the grasping hand movement representation. However, such a disclosure fails to teach the invention as set forth in the amended claims. Namely, Wallace fails to describe displaying multiple object manipulators in close proximity to each other such that it is difficult to distinguish between such object manipulators.

Further, Wallace fails to describe the ability to distinguish a particular object manipulator by changing the color of the object manipulator when the cursor is moved over it (as claimed). Instead, Wallace provides for displaying individually identifiable handles wherein if a cursor is placed over a knob handle, the interior of the handle changes colors and the pointer/cursor changes to a grasping hand. However, what is noticeably lacking from such a teaching is a display of multiple handles or knobs in close proximity to each other (as claimed). What is also noticeably lacking is a change of color that serves to distinguish a particular knob from other knobs displayed in close proximity. In this regard, Wallace completely fails to describe a display of multiple knobs in close proximity to each other. Instead, what Wallace addresses is merely the use of a particular knob and an indication that you can use a knob by changing the pointer. However, the display of multiple knobs in close proximity to each other such that it is hard to distinguish one knob from another and the changing of a color of a knob to distinguish such a knob is neither taught nor disclosed by Wallace.

Further, the other cited references fail to cure the deficiencies of Wallace.

C. Dependent Claims 4, 20, and 36

Dependent claims 4, 20, and 36 provide that the information displayed is a value of a property that is to be modified by the object manipulator. As amended, the claims provide that, when the cursor is moved over an object manipulator (and without activating the manipulator [e.g., clicking the mouse button]), a property that will be modified by activating the object manipulator is displayed.

In rejecting these claims, the Office Action Provides:

Gardner, in combination with Wallace, further teach the method of claim 1 wherein the information comprises a value (i.e., col. 6, lines 27-28 of Chekerylla "the region outline is erased by inverting the pixels back to their original values") of a property (i.e., col. 14, lines 30-32 of Gardner: "it provides a frame within a visual display wherein a primary image displayed within the frame has substantially similar image properties") to be modified by the object manipulator (i.e., col. 5, lines 61-62 of Chekerylla: "References are made to images and to the changes that are made to an image to produce an altered or modified image").

Applicants respectfully traverse such an assertion. Firstly, the manner in which the references are combined are illogical and improper. While Applicants acknowledge that one cannot show non-obviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references, the claimed invention must also be examined as a whole and whether the "whole" claimed invention would have been obvious at the time of invention (see MPEP §2142). In addition, under MPEP §706.02(j) "there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings." No such suggestion or motivation exists in either Wallace, Gardner, or Chekerylla.

In addition, Applicants note that the claim explicitly recites displaying a value of a property. However, the Office Action breaks up the term "value" from "property" relying on two different references. With respect to the value, Chekerylla's teaching of inverting pixels back to original values are relied upon. Applicants submit that the mere use of the term "value" in Chekerylla cannot possibly teach, disclose, or suggest, explicitly or implicitly, the display of a value of a property as claimed. In this regard, the concept of inverting pixels back to original values has no relationship or relevance to the claims or field of use of the invention whatsoever. Again, the claims provide for

displaying a value of a property. The inverting of pixels back to original values does not even remotely hint at such a teaching.

For the property concept, Gardner's teaching that includes the word "properties" is relied upon. Again, the mere use of a term "properties" does not even remotely allude to the concept or teaching of the presently claimed invention. In this regard, to display an image in a frame that has similar image properties to another primary image (see col. 14, lines 33-37) does not even remotely allude to, explicitly or implicitly, the concept of displaying a value of a property that will be modified by an object manipulator merely by placing the cursor over the object manipulator (as claimed).

For the object manipulator concept, the Office Action further relies on Chekerylla's teaching of references made to images and changes to produce an altered or modified image. Applicants cannot determine the relationship between changing an image to produce an altered image and the presently claimed invention that explicitly refers to the use of object manipulators. There is absolutely no nexus between the cited portion of Chekerylla and the presently claimed invention with respect to the claim elements for which Chekerylla is relied upon.

As described above, in addition to the lack of teaching of the cited references to the present invention, Applicants further submit that there is no motivation to combine the references in the manner set forth. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

D. Dependent Claims 5, 21, and 37

These dependent claims build upon claims 4, 20, and 36 and further provide that the property for which the value is displayed is a dimensional property. Thus, the displayed value is for a dimensional property (i.e., the value comprises a dimension).

In rejecting these claims, the Office Action further relies on Wallace, col. 9, lines 53-56 which provides for clearing any dimensioning information that was displayed on the screen prior to entering a translation movement. While clearing dimensioning information that was displayed may be a useful attribute of Wallace, it fails to teach, describe, or suggest what the claims provide for. The claims explicitly provide that the property for which a value is temporarily displayed when a cursor is moved over an object manipulator is for a dimension property. Again, the claims expressly provide that the information is temporarily displayed. Wallace merely teaches the removal of (and consequently the display of) dimension information. However, such information is only removed

prior to entering an object translation movement mode. Wallace is silent as to when and how such information is displayed. Some of the advantages provided by the present invention include that the information (i.e., for the dimension property) is displayed merely by moving the cursor over the object manipulator. No mention or capability of such functionality or advantage is even remotely contemplated by Wallace or the other cited references. Instead, Wallace is silent as to how and when the information is displayed.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

E. Dependent Claims 6, 22, and 38

As amended, dependent claims 6, 22, and 38 provide that the information is a graphic visual representation of the graphic object that indicates a potential change to a state of the object (i.e., on which the object manipulator is displayed). In other words, the displayed graphic is a visual representation of the graphics object wherein the visual representation indicates a change to the state of the graphic object. An example of such a changed state is illustrated in FIGS. 11A-11B of the filed application.

In rejecting these claims, the Office Action relies on col. 19, lines 12-14 of Wallace which provides "wherein the pointer movement representation is visually indicative of a potential direction of movement of the displayed object". However, contrary to the amended claims, such a teaching of Wallace merely changes the cursor itself but does not illustrate or display a representation of the graphic object itself.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

F. Dependent Claims 7, 23, and 39

These dependent claims are dependent on 6, 22, and 38 and further provide that the potential change is a potential result of interacting with the object manipulator. Thus, as claimed, the potential result would be a visual representation of the graphic object that indicates the result of interacting with the object manipulator.

Such an indication of the result is not taught, nor suggested by the cited references. As set forth in the patent application, the display of the representation communicates to the user the potential results of interacting with the manipulator without requiring the user to a) interact with the

manipulator, b) experiment with what can be done with the manipulator, and c) potentially undo unintended results. Accordingly, the user is able to visualize results before making an actual modification.

In rejecting these claims, the Office Action relies on col. 5, lines 1-4 of Wallace that provides for a graphics tool that provides a sphere image resulting from computerized execution of a specialized graphics "tool object". However, such a description completely fails to describe a temporary display of a visual representation of potential results of a graphics object as claimed. The ability to use a graphics tool to manipulate and display a resulting sphere image does not even remotely address the claimed limitations nor the advantages and benefits provided by the claimed limitations. Again, the claimed invention is directed towards a temporary display of a visual representation of a graphics object. Further, the visual representation comprises potential results of interacting with the manipulator. On the other hand, Wallace merely provides for using a tool to manipulate a sphere and display the resulting sphere. Such a teaching does not consider or even remotely hint at the ability to display potential changes via a visual representation of the graphics object as claimed. Further, such a teaching completely fails to teach a temporary display without actually activating the manipulator. Instead, Wallace expressly teaches the use of the specialized graphics tool object (i.e., activating the tool object) to manipulate a sphere and display the result.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

G. Dependent Claims 8, 24, and 40

Dependent claims 8, 24, and 40 provide that the information that is temporarily displayed is a function of the object manipulator.

In rejecting these claims, the Office Action relies on Gardner's teaching of hot spots that are capable of enabling associated functions when activated. Applicants respectfully disagree with and traverse such an assertion. Firstly, the hot spots are not functions as claimed. Instead, they are merely areas that are capable of enabling associated functions when activated. Accordingly, rather than temporarily displaying a function, Gardner's hot spots are merely areas of a graphic object or a section of text and are NOT functions. Secondly, Gardner's teaching addresses areas in a banner advertisement of a web page and not a computer graphics program having graphics objects and

object manipulators. In this regard, a banner advertisement on a web site is not even remotely similar to a graphic object in a computer graphics program as claimed.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

H. Dependent Claims 9, 25, and 41

Dependent claims 9, 25, and 41 are dependent on 8, 24, and 40 and further provide that the function that is displayed is a name of the property the object manipulator is used to modify. FIGS. 12A-12B illustrate the display of the name of the property as claimed. For example, the terms "width and height" may be displayed when the cursor is displayed over a particular object manipulator.

In rejecting these claims, the Office Action relies on Chekerylla's character data that includes image manipulation program file names and references made to images and to changes made to an image to produce an altered or modified image.

Applicants again note that the claim must be examined as a whole including the context in which the limitations are set forth. As claimed, the function that is displayed when the cursor moves over an object manipulator is a name of a property that is to be modified if the object manipulator were to be activated.

The text of Chekerylla that is relied upon describes the user using a character input device (i.e., a keyboard - see col. 9, line 35) to input a name of a image manipulation program file name. Such a teaching is not remotely similar to that of the present claims. In fact, entering input via a keyboard has no relevance whatsoever to temporarily displaying a name of a function in the manner claimed.

Further, Chekerylla's text that refers to references made to images and to changes that are made to an image to produce an altered image also has no relevance, explicit or implicit, to the specific explicit limitations of the present claims.

Applicants note that the claims are specific and provide for a particular display in a particular manner. The cited art neither teaches nor suggests, explicitly or implicitly, such limitations.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

I. Dependent Claims 10, 26, and 42

Dependent claims 10, 26, and 42 provide that the information that is displayed is in a text message box. Again, the claims expressly provide that such information is displayed without activating the object manipulator.

In rejecting these claims, the Office Action relies on Wallace's description of an editing dimension value operation and a display of a dialog box (at col. 17, lines 63-64). Applicants note that Wallace's teaching explicitly provides that the mouse button must be clicked (i.e., the manipulator must be activated) (see col. 17, line 66-col. 18, line 1):

Then, at step 1202, the user clicks right mouse button 35R, whereupon the "edit value" pop-up menu m3 of FIG. 13-18 appears.

Similarly, the Action relies on col. 17, lines 25-26. However, the full paragraph of the portion cited must be examined which provides:

If at step 1112 it is ascertained that the user selected by click of a mouse button 35 the "copy" option, even numbered steps 114 through 1120 are executed. At step 1114...(Emphasis added).

Thus, the cited portions of Wallace all require activation or clicking of the mouse button. Such a requirement is clearly and explicitly lacking from the presently claimed invention. Instead, the claims expressly require for the display without activating the manipulator. Accordingly, Wallace would actually teach away from the presently claimed invention.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

I. Dependent Claims 11, 27, and 43

Dependent claims 11, 27, and 43 provide that the information that is temporarily displayed is a method that is used to modify a function of the object manipulator. In other words, the object manipulator has a function and the information that is displayed describes a method that can be used to modify that function.

In rejecting these claims, the Office Action relied on col. 15, lines 58-60 of Chekerylla that provides a user with a method of stretching, flipping, and copying a region of an image. However, such a description does not teach nor suggest, explicitly or implicitly, any function of an object manipulator nor a description or a method that can be used to modify such a function. Instead, Chekerylla merely describes that the user can stretch, flip, and copy a region of an image. Again, the

claims are specific and explicit in what they require. To assert that a reference teaches the detailed claim limitations merely by describing the general functionality of a method is wholly without merit.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

K. Dependent Claims 13, 29, and 45

Dependent claims 13, 29, and 45 provide that the information is displayed after a period of time has passed with the cursor located over the object manipulator. In other words, the information that is temporarily displayed is not displayed until the cursor remains over the area for a period of time.

In rejecting these claims, the Office Action relies on Chekerylla's teaching of displaying an initial representation for a predetermined time period. Applicants note that displaying a representation for a set period of time is wholly and completely different from waiting to display such an initial representation until a cursor remains over a particular area for a set period of time. In this regard, the two concepts are very distinguishable and one cannot and would render the other obvious. As claimed, the information is displayed AFTER a period of time has passed with the cursor located over the object manipulator. Such a teaching is not what Chekerylla describes, teaches, or suggests.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the various elements of Applicant's claimed invention together provide operational advantages over Wallace, Gardner, and Chekerylla. In addition, Applicant's invention solves problems not recognized by Wallace, Gardner, and Chekerylla.

Thus, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 17, and 33 are allowable over Wallace, Gardner, and Chekerylla. Further, dependent claims 3-16, 19-32, and 35-48 are submitted to be allowable over Wallace, Gardner, and Chekerylla in the same manner, because they are dependent on independent claims 1, 17, and 33, respectively, and thus contain all the limitations of the independent claims. In addition, dependent claims 3-16, 19-32, and 35-48 recite additional novel elements not shown by Wallace, Gardner, and Chekerylla.

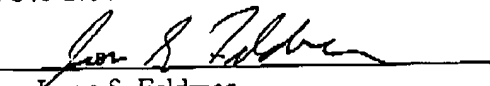
It is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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